

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970

MARCH 12, 2012

Commissioner Chairman Boyer opened the meeting.

EGRIS

Bruce Carson asked the Board for information regarding doors in the Courthouse.

9-1-1

Cliff Gardner, 9-1-1 Director, asked the Board about ordering supplies for 9-1-1. The Board said they could go through Central Supply with the space on the form regarding the fund to be charged filled out.

ASSESSOR

Sara McAuliffe, Assessor, asked about the Tax Management contract that the Board had approved in January. She has never received the signed contract. Commissioner Francis made a motion to approve and sign the contract. Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer Becky Morris spoke with the Commissioners about some options available for collecting past due taxes. One option is the ability to attach a bank account. If there has been a judgment against someone and they only pay enough to keep from losing it, it could go on for years. After 10 years the County writes it off and it seems some people use this to get out of paying. Another option is if a business does not pay their taxes, the County can't deny them the right to do business in the County until they pay the taxes due. The Commissioner expressed discomfort with these options but agreed to take them under advisement.

The Treasurer also has the right to ask all units to send a vendor list to the Treasurer so if there is anyone the units owe money to and they owe back taxes, the units will be instructed to send the money to the Treasurer to be applied to the back taxes. The County already does this with their vendors.

The Treasurer will be receiving a demonstration Digital Remittance machine on Wednesday which could save her office a lot of time at tax time.

Mrs. Morris also informed the Board that with the shortage of staff, phone and e-mail will be a low priority in her office. The Recorder has offered to answer phone calls for her. She will have the Commissioners floats working the windows and taking tax payments, the first deputy will be doing deposits and according to the State Board of Accounts, should not be at the window accepting payments. Another issue will be opening all the mail, as a lot of people mail in their payments.

RECORDER

Commissioner Faust made a motion to allow the Recorder to use her laptop (and VPN) strictly for doing back indexing only). Commissioner Boyer 2nd the motion and it passed 2-0. (Commissioner Francis was out of the room)

HIGHWAY

Sam Waltz asked about a claim submitted by R.A. Myers. Commissioner Faust made a motion to have Chairman Boyer sign the claim and let Mr. Waltz pick it up today. Commissioner Boyer 2nd the motion and it passed 2-0. (Commissioner Francis out of the room)

CLAIMS

Commissioner Francis made a motion to approve the claims. Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Faust made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Pat Roberts, County Attorney, addressed the Commissioners regarding their liability during Circus City Days. Mr. Roberts stated that the County used to have an agreement with the Circus City Festival in which the County was held harmless. The CCF also provided a Liability Insurance Certificate. The Commissioners thought this was a better idea than having all vendors submit a certificate. Commissioner Faust made a motion to approve a contract drawn up by Mr. Roberts. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Jerry Hammond came before the Board to inform them that the Washington Township Trustee, Julie Hammond, is working on having people who ask for help do some work for the financial help they receive. Trash along the roads in Miami County is a real issue and Mrs. Hammond is working with the Probation office to umbrella under their insurance.

POSTAGE

Assessor McAuliffe informed the Board that as she was checking into rates for bulk mailings she discovered that Political groups receive a much cheaper rate than Government entities.

INSUANCE

Mike Saine gave a final report to the Commissioners for cost in 2011.

CCI

Jack Krause, CCI, gave the Commissioners an update on some issues with the new jail. LA Electric has agreed to pay for ½ of the batteries. Phend and Brown will fix the issues with the windows and paint when the weather breaks. The island of dirt and the uneven finish of the ground which makes mowing difficult will be fixed as well.

There was discussion about the Video system which has never worked properly. Mr. Krause said that the company has extended the warranty date to 9-26-12. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Krause will send them a letter specifying the warranty date and legal action that will be taken.

COUNTY ENGINEER

Ken Einselen, County Engineer told the Board that AT&T asked for permission to lay cable at 200W east of 125E to 1400. Commissioner Faust made a motion to approve. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Faust made a motion to recess till 1:45. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

BACK IN SESSION

Council President Ralph Duckwall introduced Jeff Peters of Peters Municipal Consultants. Mr. Peters explained the services his company can offer the County. The company can do income projections and would prepare a booklet of the financial status of the county. Commissioner Francis asked the estimated time frame it would take to do it. Mr. Peters explained that it would depend on how much time it would take for the Auditor to get him the information. Commissioner Francis asked why we would want to hire them over another company. Mr. Peters used to work for the DLGF and has three professional people working for him and unless you have a \$100,000 staff person in house, you won't be able to get the kind of document his company can produce.

Mr. Duckwall stated he does not have any confidence in the information we receive from the State. Councilman Wiles asked why the document says "draft". Mr. Peters stated it would be a living document which will constantly change.

Councilman Francis asked what kind of money it would take. Mr. Peters stated it would be \$20,000 - \$25,000 for the 1st year and \$15,000 for every year thereafter. Commissioner Boyer asked about success stories. Mr. Peters named Peru City, Lagrange County and Steuben County.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Commissioners are recommending that if the two positions are hired from within, they should start at their current salaries. After getting certified they would go to \$26,000 and 6months later to \$28,000. Commissioner Faust made s motion to take the recommendation to the Council. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Bruce Embrey, Prosecutor, asked about the \$24,000 that was cut from his 4D budget. He explained that everything in the 4D budget is reimbursed 66%. The Commissioners recommended the amount be put back in his budget.

There was discussion about the Museum misunderstanding that they could keep their staff. The Commissioners did not tell Mr. Hawley he could keep the staff if they cut \$30,000 but Mr. Duckwall said that is what Mr. Hawley told him. It was decided to leave for now.

The question about keeping the phone operator came up. Councilman Wiles said maybe the phones could be answered in the Veterans Office. Chairman Boyer suggested taking the phone position to part time (30 hrs) to maintain the central supply. Commissioner Faust stated he did not want to do that because she could have applied for another job and they asked her to stay.

Treasurer Becky Morris stated that they need to take into consideration what jobs are essential and which ones are non essential. The phone person was kept and essential personnel with a lot more time was let go.

Councilman Donaldson said two taxpayers said with the shortage of funds they should just shut down the Museum.

Commissioner Francis made a motion to recommend moving both Bailiffs to the Jury Fee Fund. Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL BILL

The Board received a bill from Schwartz Ford for the Animal control truck. Commissioner Faust made a motion to pay out of the dog fund. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

MAXIMUS BILL

The Board received the annual bill from Maximus. Commissioner Francis made a motion to pay and Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Faust made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION

_____, Chairman
C. Craig Boyer

_____, Vice Chairman
H. Jon Faust

_____, Member
Joshua Francis

Attest: _____, **Auditor**
Jane Lilley